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EXAMINER

RONES, C

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No. 08/927,022	Applicant(s) KIRSCH, STEVEN T.
	Examiner Charles Rones	Group Art Unit 2771

Responsive to communication(s) filed on Sep 10, 1997

This action is **FINAL**.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 4

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. Claims 1-8 & 11-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schloss (5,706,507).
3. As to claim 1, Schloss discloses:
 - a. one or more web servers having electronic versions of documents available by request where content servers are deemed to be document servers; See Figs. 1-2;
 - b. a search engine having access to access control lists for documents on the web servers, the access control list linking authorized users with all documents permitted for each authorized user, whereby documents found in a search are screened with the list to determine the documents for which a user performing a search has access; See Figs. 3-4, 5C, 7 & 11; Abstract; 5:45-67; 6:1-67; 7:1-25; 8:40-54.

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4. As to claim 2, Schloss discloses:

a. means for forwarding to the user only those document titles compatible with the authorized access of the user; See Abstract; 7:1-25; 8:40-54.

5. As to claim 3, Schloss discloses:

a. a communications link between a query server connected to the search engine; See Figs. 1-2; and

b. access control lists (advisory servers) associated with the web servers; See Figs. 1-2.

6. As to claim 4, Schloss discloses:

a. executing a query on a query server having access to a document index of documents available for searching on document servers by a person having a unique identification code without regard to access control limitations, yielding a list of all relevant documents having a unique URL wherein it is deemed that persons having a unique id for access during the time blocked periods would also use the system as described for other access; See Figs. 4 & 9B; Abstract; 4:1-21; 11:1-55; 7:1-25;

b. reviewing all URLs after the search is executed using an access control list associated with each document server to check whether each URL is compatible with the access level of the identification code of the person executing the query wherein parents and children are deemed to have different access levels, See Abstract; 11:1-55; and

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c. delivering only those documents whose URL is compatible with the access level of the person; See Abstract; 7:1-25; 8:40-55.

7. As to claim 5, Schloss discloses:

a. providing a data link between the query server and access control lists for associated web servers wherein the access control list is deemed to be on the advisory server; See Figs. 1-2, & 6; 4:57-67.

8. As to claim 6, Schloss discloses:

a. storing the access control list separately from the index of documents wherein the index of documents are deemed to be on the content server; See Figs. 1-2 & 6; 5:1-52.

9. As to claim 7, Schloss discloses:

a. storing the access control list separately from the index of documents wherein the access control list is deemed to be on the advisory server and the index of documents is deemed to be on the ; See Figs. 1-2 & 6; 2:37; 4:47-67; 5:1-52.

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10. As to claim 8, Schloss discloses:

a. implementing access control with partial URLs indicating the heirarchy of documents to which a person with a unique identification code has access wherein a fuzzy match is deemed to be a partial URL; See 7:5-44.

11. As to claim 11, Schloss discloses:

a. wherein a single access control list is provided for all document servers wherein it is deemed that one access (advisory) server can be used for all document servers; See Figs. 1-2; 5:1-67; 6:1-67.

12. As to claim 12, Schloss discloses:

a. wherein an access control list is provided for each document server wherein it is deemed that an access server can be provided for each document servers (content server); See Figs. 1-2; 5:1-67; 6:1-67.

13. As to claim 13, Schloss discloses:

a. a plurality of document servers, each having a unique URL, each document server having an access control list defining user identification and for each user identification listing URLs for which access is permitted or denied wherein each document server's access control is deemed to be an access server (advisory server); See Figs. 1-2; and

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b. executing a query on a query server having access to a document index of documents available for searching on the document servers by a person having one of said identification codes; See previous responses; and

c. producing only those documents whose URL is compatible with the access level of the identification code of the person; See previous responses.

14. As to claim 14, Schloss discloses:

a. wherein the URLs are expressed in HTTP protocol; See 4:30-56.

15. As to claim 15, Schloss discloses:

a. wherein each access control list lists URLs for each user identification number with a hierarchical indication of documents for which access is permitted or denied wherein the URL is deemed to provide a hierarchical indication of documents; See 5:40-67; 6:1-67; Figs. 4, 5C, & 9B.

16. As to claim 16, Schloss discloses:

a. wherein hierarchical indication is by partial URLs; See Figs. 4, 5C, & 9B; 7:1-44.

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17. As to claim 17, Schloss discloses:

a. accessing the access control list by the filesystem of the query server; See Figs. 1-2 & 4; 5:1-67; 6:1-67.

18. As to claim 18, Schloss discloses:

a. accessing the access control list by a file transfer protocol wherein HTTP is deemed to be a file transfer protocol and the browsers also have a file transfer protocol; See 4:1-67.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

19. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

20. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schloss '507.

21. As to claim 19, Schloss discloses the claimed invention except for confirming access to the access control list by a script message from a document server. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to confirm access to the access control list by a script message from a document server since it was known in the art that

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restricting access usually provides a message when access is restricted and providing a message when access is successful for the purpose of informing the user of his/her accessibility to data is helpful to the user when restricting access.

22. Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schloss '507 in view of Kirsch (5,751,956).

23. As to claim 9, Schloss discloses the claimed invention except for implementing access control with a common gateway interface script. Kirsch teaches that it is known to implement access control with a common gateway interface script as set forth at column 2, lines 49-67 and column 3, lines 1-65. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement access control with a common gateway interface script, as taught by Kirsch in order to allow a small program to be executed by a server in response to a client URL request.

24. As to claim 10, the modified invention of Schloss discloses:

a. wherein said common gateway interface scripts returns a message to the query server indicating URLs to which a person with a unique identification code has access; See Kirsch:28-67.

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Conclusion

25. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles Rones whose telephone number is (703) 306-3030. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black, can be reached on (703) 305-9707.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

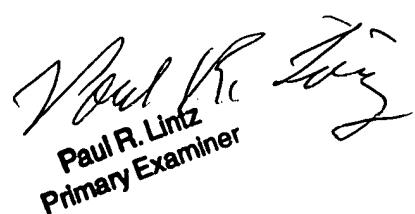
(703) 305-9731 (for informal or draft communications, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.


Rones November 8, 1998


Paul R. Lintz
Primary Examiner